

Adventures in an Outhouse

During the summer of 1940 Shirley Scott's family was living in a tent in Butterfield Canyon to be closer to where her dad was working in the mine. While they were living in the canyon the only bathroom that they had was an outhouse. One day Shirley's brother Max, who was five years old, was in the outhouse. He had his favorite toy car with him and was using the toilet seat as a racetrack. He was driving his car around the seat when he accidentally dropped it down the hole.

Max really liked his car so he stuck his arm down the hole and tried to reach it but it was too far down. He couldn't get it on his own so he asked Shirley to help him. Shirley was seven years old and was more than willing to do what she could to help her little brother.

The solution that they came up with was to have Shirley hold onto Max's legs and lower him down the hole so he could grab the car. What could be simpler? The plan was working out fine until Shirley lost her grip on Max's legs and dropped him headfirst into the nasty stuff that you find at the bottom of an outhouse.

The sides of the pit were dirt so Max couldn't get a grip on anything and he started sinking. He hollered for Shirley to help him but she couldn't bring herself to put her hand down the hole to rescue him.

Max thought for sure that he was going to go under when at the last minute Shirley reached down and pulled him out. Max was literally covered from head to toe and Shirley was covered too. They went to the tent smelling like an army of irate skunks. When Ruby saw them she had a fit and sent them to the creek to get cleaned up before she would let them anywhere near the tent.



Shirley and Max Scott